between the two countries and for passage of goods between the two places in one country through the territory of the other.

During the 5th meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission held in March 1997, it was decided to set up a Group of Experts to examine and make recommendations on the issue of border trade. Two other issues namely trans-shipment of goods from one point in India to another through Bangladesh territory in pursuance of Article VIII of the bilateral Trade Agreement and deepening of tariff concessions were also assigned to this Group at the meeting of the two Commerce Ministers in 1999.

During subsequent bilateral discussions, however, Bangladesh side did not agree to discuss trans-shipment.

Rejection of Tea consignments by Germany

497. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some German buyers have started rejecting the tea consignments on the ground that these do not meet the stringent EU pesticide norm on the presence of ethion;

(b) whether it is a fact that the German buyers have alleged that the ethion content in the tea far exceeds the acceptable limit as specified in the EU pesticide norms; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reduce the ethion content in the tea consignments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No specific case of rejection of Indian tea consignment by the German buyers has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) No specific complaint has been received by the Government in this regard.

(c) The latest EU/German Commission residue limits on tea as on 16.12.02 indicated maximum permissible level for ethion in tea to be 3 parts per million (ppm).This stipulation is considered to be stringent as

ethion is used by the tea industry in India for controlling majority of tea pests. An Indian tea trade delegation led by the Chairman, Tea Board had discussed the residue standards of European Union with the European Commission at Brussels in June, 2003. It was then clarified that application of pesticides in tea in India has drastically come down over the years and that use of ethion has been restricted after the implementation of integrated pest management control system in tea. The European Commission has agreed to review the residue limits for imports of tea. The tea research institute in India have already given suitable guidelines to the tea producers in the country regarding restricted use of ethion.

Hazardous dairy products from New Zealand

498. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that hazardous butter oil and other dairy products and infant foods are entering into the country from New Zealand in the absence of any Sanitary and Phytosanitary checks (SPS);

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre for Trade in Agriculture and Agro based industries (CITA) has filed a petition before the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) urging for imposition of anti-dumping duty; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check inflow of cheap butter oil and other dairy products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Import of any food article is regulated as per section 5 & 6 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The Custom Officers may detain the consignment of imported food and draw the sample and get it analyzed in the Central Food Laboratories/authorized State Food Laboratories to assess the quality of such food articles as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and rules made thereunder.

As per the notification No. 21 (RE-2001)/1997-2002 dated the 30th July, 2001 issued;by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, milk and milk